

# VENGEANCE ON HATED LOVE RIVAL SEEN IN BULLET - RIDDLED COUPLE

## Both Lured To Death by Phone Call

The arrest of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, charged with the murder of her husband, the Rev. Edward H. Hall, and his choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, reopens the most sensational unsolved crime in recent years.

On September 14, 1922, nearly four years ago, the bodies of the Rev. Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills were found beneath a gnarled crabapple tree on the Asa D. Phillips farm, two miles from New Brunswick, N. J.

The children who were living in the lonely Jersey home, a favorite trysting place of the lovers, discovered the two bodies.

Although the marks on Dr. Hall's body and the rents in the back of his coat showed that he had put up a terrific struggle with his assassins, he had been neatly composed as though a professional undertaker had been officiating.

Mrs. Mills was arranged with even greater care evidently to mask the horrible injuries which she had suffered during her battle for life. Her hair had been carefully brushed back, her dress was fixed so that none of the rents would show and her arms and legs were arranged as if for burial.

### Shot to Death

Both had been killed by bullets. Dr. Hall's body had no other wounds except these, but Mrs. Mills's neck was slashed, probably with a sharp knife, in addition to bruises and bullet wounds.

The bodies had been placed just over the Middlesex county line in Somerset county, so that the investigation of the murder involved two sets of officials and gave the aspect of a carefully premeditated crime. All through the many inquiries these two sets of officials worked along double trails and sometimes at cross purposes. That was inevitable.

Some time before the murder the friendship of the Hall and Mills families had been remarked upon by neighbors and members of the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in New Brunswick, of which Dr. Hall was the rector and Mr. Mills was the sexton.

### Loveless Marriage

Dr. Hall had held his post for years and was held in high esteem. He was about 48, was married and had no children. His wife was a stern-faced, gray-haired woman who had struggled all through life to hold the love of her pleasure-loving husband. She was healthy by inheritance and, with her husband was able to live in comfortable circumstances. Many other clergymen in the churches.

The Mills family consisted of Mrs. Mills, the sexton; his wife, who was about 36, and their children, Charlotte, 16, and Dan, 10. They lived in a ramshackle little house on Carman Street, New Brunswick.

There was no apparent reason why the wealthy Halls and the impoverished Mills family should be so friendly. Then, one day, a suspicious neighbor saw Dr. Hall and the beautiful Mrs. Mills in the vestibule of the

## Crowds Throng Hall-Mills Murder Site



WITH THE ARREST of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, charged with the murder of her husband and his choir singer, crowds today flocked to Phillips farm, near New Brunswick, N. J., where the body was found, re-enacting scenes which took place four years before. Inset at the upper right is Dr. Edward H. Hall. At the lower left is Mrs. Jane Gibson, called the "pig woman," who lives near the Phillips farm and says she saw the murder of Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills committed.

## Pair Found Vent for Love In Passionate Letters

Passionate love letters, burning with endearment, were exchanged by the Rev. Dr. Edward H. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, the couple whom Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall today is charged with having murdered.

Excerpts from their correspondence follow:—

From Dr. Hall: "Dear heart of mine! I am a lonely, lonely boy tonight—fog all day today. I could not get to Seal Harbor and I know there are love letters there waiting for me."

From Mrs. Mills: "I love you most when you love me as you did today, not physically but prayerfully."

From Dr. Hall: "Good night, beloved. Every blessing for you, wonder-heart. Only help me to be strong and patient until we are in each others arms again."

From Mrs. Mills: "I am not fretting. I know there are girls with shapely bodies, but I don't care what they have. I have . . . a noble man's deep, true and eternal love. My heart is his; my life is his. Poor as my body is, scrawny as my skin may be, I am his forever."

From Dr. Hall: "Dearest, we were made for each other's arms. That is our heaven, our home, and every moment away from there is a moment away from home. Good night, dearly, dearly beloved; all the universe of love crushed into my love for you."

From Mrs. Mills: "And, honey, you put the dear pictures of me in my hymnal. Oh, you sweet, adorable babykins of mine!"

From Dr. Hall: "Heaven's blessings for the dearest, dearest sweet-heart that ever lived."

From Mrs. Mills: "But this love nest, you know, dearie, is dreadfully lonesome with just me here. What a joy to read the

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## "Lie," Cries Cousin of Mrs. Hall

Henry de la Bruyere Carpender, cousin of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, who was seen last night in connection with the arrest of the latter for the murder of her husband, the Rev. Edward H. Hall, and Mrs. Mills, on September 14, 1922, in New Brunswick, was only mildly interested when apprised by The GRAPHIC early this morning that Mrs. Hall had been held for the crime.

Aroused from his slumbers at 3 a. m. and informed that his cousin had been taken into custody, Carpender displayed absolutely no emotion.

"I had not heard of it until this minute," said Carpender, suavely.

Asked if he was surprised that Mrs. Hall had been arrested, Carpender answered briskly:—

"I have nothing to say."

"On the night of the murder," continued The GRAPHIC correspondent, "you were supposed to have been on the old Phillips farm?"

"That is a lie," he retorted.

"Where were you on the night of the murder?" he was asked.

"I was having dinner at the home of J. E. Rice, a personal friend," he answered.

Asked for a statement, Carpender declared:—

"I have nothing further to say. I deny completely any story linking me with the murder. Good night."

During the sensational murder trial three years ago, Henry de la Bruyere Carpender, cousin of Mrs. Hall, was identified by Mrs. Jane Gibson, the Pig Woman, as having been on the old Phillips farm on the crime night in company with Mrs. Hall, his cousin, and "Crazy Willie" Stevens, her brother.

Other witnesses testified that the Pig Woman could not have seen Carpender there as she was not on the old Phillips farm on the night the tragedy occurred.

## DEFENDER OF WIDOW HAS LITTLE TO SAY

Timothy N. Pfeiffer, who has been attorney for Mrs. Hall during the time she was under fire lately, was found at his home, Sycamore Avenue and 247th Street, The Bronx, by a GRAPHIC representative early today.

Asked whether he knew Mrs. Hall had been arrested, he said he did.

"Have you any statement to make on her behalf?" he was asked.

"I have not been in communication with Mrs. Hall," he declared.

"Are you going to New Jersey to see her now?"

"I cannot say."

"But you are still representing Mrs. Hall, aren't you?"

"I have nothing to say," he persisted. "I am sorry, but there is nothing I will say."

### Sulked Amid Wealth

Letters which were found in the clergyman's pockets after his death proved conclusively that his relations with Mrs. Mills were quite intimate. It was learned that while he kept trysts with her his wife sulked at home in the midst of her wealth, unable to do anything to regain her husband's love. The pretty choir singer had won him from her.

At times Dr. Hall would stop in the midst of a passionate scene with his affinity and go to work on his sermon for the next Sunday. Mrs. Mills would sit next to him with her arm flung around his shoulders, telling him how to advise other people to lead lives of purity and goodness.

That was the way things continued until the night of September 14, 1922. About 7.30 a boy from the corner drug store said there was a telephone call for Mrs. Mills there. She immediately put on her blue velvet hat and clasped a scarf about her neck. Her husband looked up gravely from his evening paper.

"Where are you going?" "Follow me and you'll find out," she laughed, running from the house, ostensibly to keep a tryst with her lover.

### Never Saw Her Again

"All right. Good-by, dear," he called after her. There were many things about his wife which Mr. Mills did not understand. It was the last time he ever saw her alive. At 10 o'clock she had not returned, and he went to bed, thinking nothing of her absence, for she had made a practice of staying out nights until late hours.

At 2 a. m., when she had not returned, however, he rose from bed and walked hurriedly to the

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## Eager that Fiend Should Meet His Fate

Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, who today is under arrest, charged with murdering her husband, Dr. Edward W. Hall, and his choir singer, Eleanor Mills, said she had been extremely active in investigating the case through private detectives.

On her return from a European tour after the murder inquiry was closed, she said:—

"I feel better now than I did when I left New Brunswick. But I shall never be really well until the fiend who killed my husband is brought to justice."

"Only by finding him and convicting him can I overcome the cruel suspicions cast on members of my family and of Mr. Mills's family. And I may add this: I am now closer to a solution than I was at the time of my departure for Europe."

DOVER, N. J., July 29.—The loss in the explosion of the naval arsenal at Lake Denmark is put at \$88,500,000, with the announcement that it will cost \$2,500,000 to replace the buildings.

## THE WEATHER

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